DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE POLICY
ON
THE USE OF FORMER SOVIET UNION PROPULSION
IN SPACE LAUNCH VEHICLES

PURPOSE

This establishes Department of Defense (DoD) policy, guidelines, and implementation actions for the purchase and incorporation of propulsion systems, components, or technology produced in the Russian Federation or other states of the former Soviet Union (FSU) into space launch vehicles used by DoD to support national security missions. It provides guidance to the components of the Department responsible for implementation of National Space Transportation Policy.

BACKGROUND

A fundamental goal of National Space Transportation Policy is assuring reliable and affordable access to space through U.S. space transportation capabilities. National Space Transportation Policy directs that for the foreseeable future, U.S. Government payloads will be launched on space launch vehicles manufactured in the United States, unless exempted by the President or his designated representative. It also directs that the U.S. Government will seek to take advantage of foreign components or technologies in upgrading U.S. space transportation systems or developing next generation space transportation systems. Such activities will be consistent with U.S. nonproliferation, national security, and foreign policy goals and commitments as well as the commercial sector guidelines contained in National Space Transportation Policy. They will be conducted in a manner consistent with U.S. obligations under the Missile Technology Control Regime and with due consideration given to dependence on foreign sources and national security.

National Space Transportation Policy directs that DoD will be the launch agent for the national security sector and will maintain the capability to evolve and operate those space transportation systems, infrastructure, and support activities necessary to meet national security requirements. It also directs that DoD will be the lead agency for improvement and evolution of the current expendable launch vehicle fleet, including appropriate technology development. The objective of this effort to improve and evolve current expendable launch vehicles is to reduce costs while improving reliability, operability, responsiveness, and safety.

POLICY

National security payloads will be launched on space launch vehicles manufactured in the United States, unless exempted by the President or his designated representative. Such U.S. space launch vehicles shall be fabricated and tested in the United States.

The use of FSU propulsion systems, components, or technology in U.S. launch vehicles must be in conformity with obligations under arms control agreements (e.g., START Treaty), U.S. nonproliferation policies, U.S. technology transfer policies, and U.S. policies regarding observance of the Guidelines and Annex of the Missile Technology Control Regime.

FSU propulsion systems, components, or technology, made entirely overseas, may be used in launch vehicles for national security missions. The use of such FSU systems, components, or technology in U.S. launch vehicles used by DoD for national security missions shall be carried out so that access to space cannot be denied by the foreign supplier. DoD shall not permit a condition to exist or develop which could result in national security space launches being jeopardized by delays or disruptions in receipt of FSU produced propulsion systems, components, or technology.

FSU produced propulsion systems, components, or technology used in launch vehicles for national security missions must be converted to U.S. production within four years after contract award for Engineering and Manufacturing Development.

Launch vehicles used by DoD for national security missions that incorporate FSU propulsion systems, components, or technology shall meet all flight safety, flight qualifications, and other applicable technical or performance demands.

GUIDELINES

DoD shall ensure that U.S. launch vehicle manufacturers using FSU sources of supply have sufficient quality and quantity of stocks (i.e., flight articles and spares) to preclude a launch stand-down during a transition to U.S. sources. DoD shall ensure that U.S. launch vehicle manufacturers have a domestic ability to engineer and incorporate changes to the stocks if required. DoD shall approve U.S. launch vehicle manufacturers' contingency plans for alternative sources of FSU propulsion systems, components, and technology intended for use in DoD launch vehicle acquisition programs.

DoD shall ensure that U.S. launch vehicle manufacturers using FSU propulsions systems, components, or technology have adequate technical information to resolve anomalies in a timely manner and without adversely affecting overall launch system reliability. At a minimum, this shall include detailed information on the history, traceability, design, fabrication, manufacture, performance, qualification and certification testing, and acceptable operating environments for each FSU system, component, or technology used on launch vehicles or launch services purchased by DoD.

Conversion of FSU produced propulsion systems, components, or technology to U.S. production may be accomplished using licensing, co-production, or other industry-to-industry arrangements as appropriate. Such arrangements shall ensure that U.S. manufacturers are authorized to produce the propulsion system, component, or technology after the transition to domestic sources. If DoD determines that such conversion is impractical within four years, then a limited extension may be granted by the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and

Technology provided that continued foreign production will not result in launch program vulnerability because of delays or disruptions in the availability of the propulsion system, component, or technology.

Government-to-government agreements may be used as necessary to facilitate the availability of FSU propulsion systems, components, or technology for DoD launch vehicles. U.S. launch vehicle manufactures shall be responsible for ensuring the availability of such foreign supplies.

IMPLEMENTATION GUIDANCE

The Secretary of the Air Force , as the DoD Executive Agent for Space Launch, shall ensure that development, acquisition, and operation of launch vehicles used by DoD to support national security space missions are consistent with this policy.

The Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Space, on behalf of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Technology, shall oversee implementation of this policy.

William J. Perry

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